The Orthodox Herald

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ANOTHER SOURCE

We learn how the early church was organized by studying the Acts of the Apostles. Besides this, we can read the History of the Christian Church by Eusebius. This history written in ten volumes was published in 324 and is the definitive work on early Christian life and polity for the early years of the Church. It begins with the Apostolic Age and ends with his death about the year 340. Among other subjects it contains valuable material on the martyrs of Palestine and the life of Constantine the Great.

Eusebius was born in 260. At an early age he associated himself with Pamphilus, who was prominent in the church in Caesarea. Eusebius entered the theological school headed by Pamphilus and became an earnest student. He spent much time in Pamphilus' library and used many of the materials he found there as source material for his History of the Christian Church. This makes his work valuable because much of the original material is no longer available.

He was a prolific writer, penning, among other things, the Chronicle in two volumes, two other historical volumes Martyrs of Palestine and the Life of Constantine, and 35 books in support of the divine authorship of the Scriptures. The book of the Martyrs of Palestine spans the years 303-310 and discusses martyrs of the period. This is valuable because he would have been an eyewitness of these events.

He once wrote: "It is my purpose to write an account of the succession of the holy Apostles as well as of the times which have elapsed from the day of our Savior to our own; to relate how many and important events are

(Continued on Page 19, Col. 1)

O Physician of souls and bodies: with a contrite and humble heart we bow down before You and beseech You to end the physical and spiritual pain and suffering of Your servant. Forgive them all sins committed deliberately or through human frailty. Quickly raise up Your servants from their bed of pain. We pray You, hear us and have mercy.

56 SIGNED

Have you ever wondered about the men who signed the Declaration of Independence? Twenty-four of them were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means and well educated. Fifty-two of them were deeply committed Christians; while the others all believed in the Bible as the divine truth, in the God of the scriptures, and in His personal intervention. Immediately after creating the Declaration of Independence, the Continental Congress voted to purchase and import 20,000 copies of the Bible for the people of this nation.

They gave much, these men who pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. Five of them were captured by the British, tortured and killed as traitors. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured. Nine of them died from wounds or hardships borne during the Revolutionary War.

They gave us much – a free and independent America.

Let's honor them on this fourth of July.

A COINED WORD

A commentator recently used the word "apatheism." I looked it up in the dictionary and could not find it; he had coined the word. But I did find the word "apathy" and from the context of his discourse, I think that he had used the word to make a new one. "Apathy" means lack of interest or concern or indifference; while "ism" could mean process or practice.

The commentator used the word to describe the stance many people maintain toward their faith. He explained that the greatest development in modern religion is not a religion at all – it's an attitude best described as "apatheism," which is a disinclination to care all that much about one's own religion. He said that he noticed that many people believe in God ... they just don't care much about Him.

However, this pervasive spirit of halfheartedness and lack of zeal presents a danger. As Orthodox we cannot afford to become nonchalant about our faith and lose our zeal for serving and worshipping God. Jesus warned against such lukewarmness when he cautioned first century Christians living in Laodicea: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot. I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. (Revel. 3:15-18)

We would do well to examine ourselves to determine whether our Christian identity is becoming stronger based on our personal relationship with God through His Church. We can't depend merely on the faith of our parents or spouses. As St. Paul wrote: "So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God. (Romans 14:12) Obviously, a

(Continued on Page 19, Col. 1)

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CHRONOLOGY

JULY 2005

ON THE SATURDAY BEFORE PASCHA, organizers put on a first-ever laser show that painted the white exterior of Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Moscow with images of icons and famous church frescos.

THE 13TH WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES mission conference was held in Athens, Greece from May 9-16. This was the first time, since the first conference was held, that it took place in an Orthodox-majority country. A boat brought a 13-foot cross, made of olive wood by a Jerusalem craftsman, which was intended as a symbol of reconciliation and healing.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, Fr./St. Alexander Hotovitsky founded "The Russian-American Messenger." This was printed for several decades and was replaced by "One Church" which was published until the mid-90's. The Patriarchal Churches have been without a national publication since that time. Now it has published "The Messenger of the Representation" monthly in two languages – Russian and English. It has 8 pages. For info or subscription call 212-996-6638 or e-mail: secretary@russianchurchusa.org or fax 212-427-5003.

DUE AT EASTER 2006 is a translation of a controversial gospel according to Judas. The 62-page papyrus manuscript was uncovered in Egypt during the 1950's or 60's. It dates back to the period beginning with the 3rd century according to a Swiss foundation in Basel-Maecenas Foundation.

THE UKRAINIAN MUSEUM, a 24,000 square, $9 million dollar building has opened on 222 E. 6th Street in New York City. It's inaugural exhibit includes 65 sculptures by Alexander Archipenko, which will be displayed until September 4. The museum features fine art by Ukrainians, folk art such as embroidery, traditional costumes and hand-painted Easter eggs. $70,000 has been raised toward completing a children's room, which will feature hands-on exhibits. For info: ukrainianmuseum.org.

DIEMA'S DREAM, 9103 Dellwood Dr., Vienna, VA 22180 provides financial, medical and educational support for physically and mentally disabled children in Russia and FSU states. Its purpose is to affect societal and legislative changes in order to create social and medical support programs, which would allow parents to raise their disabled children at home. For more info contact Debra Cockrell phone 703/319-9164, e-mail debra@diemasdream.com

THE HOLY FIRE, which descended on the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem on Holy Saturday, was delivered by air to Moscow for the Paschal Liturgy served by the Patriarch of Moscow in Christ the Savior Cathedral. A delegation had been sent to Jerusalem to facilitate the transfer.

IN GREECE, men are obligated to complete 12 months of national service. The Ministry of Defense has adopted a motion whereby priests and monks are now eligible. Archbishop Christodoulos had proposed this in February following a series of problems in the clerical ranks.

THE JACKSON-VANNICK AMENDMENT is still in force. It was enacted into law at the height of the "cold war" and established sanctions against the Soviet Union because those in the Soviet Union were not free to emigrate. Ukraine is also subject to the same law, which hurts business and political relations with the United States.

THE AMERICAN LEGION has a nationwide collection drive of spent inkjet cartridges and old cell phones that could raise funds for their charities, including scholarship funds for the children of U.S. troops killed on duty. For info contact website: www.legion.org and click on "Soldiers for Soldiers."

THE CATHEDRAL OF HAGIA SOPHIS in Constantinople was built by order of Emperor Justinian in the Sixth Century. It is one of the buildings which inspired the architect who designed Westminster Cathedral in London.

A RECENT AMERICAN RELIGIOUS IDENTIFICATION SURVEY made by the Graduate Center at City University of New York revealed that: 16% of Americans switch their religious affiliation, 22% of U.S. households are of mixed faiths (Christian/non-Christian, Christians of different denominations, or believers/non-believers), some 50% of Jews and 25% of Catholics marry outside their faith.

ONE CANNOT DENY THE BIBLE'S influence on American literature and history. A survey sponsored by the Bible Literacy Project showed that only 34% of teens knew what happened on the road to Damascus - where the Apostle Paul was stunned into conversation by the appearance of God. 28% didn't know who Moses was, and only 35% could identify who asked: "Am I my brother's keeper" (Cain in Genesis). They cannot understand the biblical allusions in much of literature.

UNRULY CHILDREN during church services seems to be a continuation of their behavior elsewhere. It seems to start in preschool where three times more children are expelled than are teens from high school. There was much publicity given to the case of a little girl in Florida and a little boy in Wisconsin, who were handcuffed and arrested for their actions in kindergarten. The church does teach that there is right and wrong behavior. For thousands of years it has provided an objective benchmark for behavior.

(Continued from front page)
ANOTHER SOURCE

said to have occurred in the history of the church; and to mention those who have governed and presided over the church in the most prominent parishes, and those who in each generation have proclaimed the divine word either orally or in writing."

In the year 325, Emperor Constantine summoned all bishops to Nicea to settle the much-debated issue of God's relationship to His son. Eusebius, regarded as the most learned of his age, who had studied the Scriptures diligently and had been a defender of Christianity, was one of those summoned. Eusebius was regarded so highly that he sat at the right hand of the Emperor at this Council of Nicea.

Eusebius lived for some 80 years, becoming one of the most prolific writers of the period. His writings encompassed the events of the first three centuries of the Church. He was not only a writer but a historian, apologist, topographer, preacher, critic and exegetical writer.

(Continued from front page)
A COINED WORD

half-hearted continuation of family tradition is not enough.

Throughout Christian history, there have been a succession of saints, martyrs, and true believers who have passed on the faith to us. Those were not the ones who were adherents of "apatheism!" We are the latest of this long line of faithful worshippers. What a rich spiritual heritage we have.

ISN'T YOUR BAG HEAVY ENOUGH??

One of my teachers told each one of us to bring a clear plastic bag and a sack of potatoes to class. For this exercise we were to think of every person we'd refuse to forgive in our life experience, we were told to choose a potato, write on it the name of the person, the date of their offense to us, and put it in the plastic bag. Some of our bags, as you can imagine, were quite heavy.

We were then told to carry this bag with us everywhere we went for one week, putting it beside our bed at night, on the car seat when driving, next to our desk at work. The hassle of lugging this around with us made it clear what a weight we were carrying spiritually, and how we had to pay attention to it all the time to make sure not to forget it. We also had to keep explaining it and not leaving it in embarrassing places.

Naturally, the condition of the potatoes deteriorated to a nasty slime. This was a great metaphor for the price we pay for keeping our pain and heavy negativity! Too often we think of forgiveness as a gift to the other person, and it clearly is for ourselves!! SO THE NEXT TIME YOU DECIDE YOU CAN'T FORGIVE SOMEONE, ASK YOURSELF...

"ISN'T MY BAG HEAVY ENOUGH?"

JK

BIBLE TRANSLATION

Perhaps, we can better understand the problem of translating the Bible and other religious books if we learn of what happened in Chukotka, Russia, the province nearest Alaska in the U.S. The Institute for Bible Translations, founded in Stockholm, Sweden in 1973, has just released a Chukchi translation of the gospel according to St. Luke. This translation took 13 years and was a joint effort of academics, teachers of the Chukchi language, and a Chukchi poet. It was revealed that the process was difficult because the team of translators was spread out across Russia and, more importantly, some key Biblical concepts do not have exact parallels in the Chukchi language.

Chuckchi is still mainly an oral language and has existed only as a written language since 1932. While many of the 15,000 native Chukchi in Russia are fluent in the language, they cannot write it. Because of this, the Institute included an audio tape of the translation with each of the 2000 gospels it has printed.

Some of the problems of translating many of the services in the Orthodox Church from their original languages into English is that in English we can condense into one word that it takes several words to do in the original.

THE PRIEST'S BLESSING

The clergy (that is, specially ordained people who celebrate the Divine Services) are our spiritual fathers. Bishops and priests sign us with the sign of the Cross. This is called a blessing.



When the priest blesses us, he forms the Greek letters IC XC, that is Jesus Christ, with the fingers of his hand. This means that through the priest our Lord Jesus Christ Himself blesses us. Therefore, we must receive the blessing of the clergy with reverence.

When we hear in the church the words of blessing, "Peace unto all" and others, in reply to them we should bow without making the sign of the Cross. In order to receive a personal blessing from a bishop or a priest, we should place our hands in the form of a cross: the right hand on the left with the palms upward. When we have received the blessing we kiss the hand that blesses us – we kiss, as it were, the invisible hand of Christ the Saviour Himself.



STANDING NOT SITTING

Orthodox believers usually stand in church out of reverence to God, the King of kings, before Whose Throne in heaven the Seraphim and Cherubim angels stand trembling and in awe. It is Scriptural for in all their visions of heaven the prophets and St. John the Evangelist saw the saints standing in worship on either side of Christ the King seated on His Throne. So we, when we worship in the House of God, surrounded by unseen witnesses, also stand before His Presence.

Sitting is allowed only at certain parts of the services, and to invalids and others who are too weak to stand.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. In what book of the Bible is Canaan first described as a land flowing with milk and honey?
2. What prized animal was killed for food when the prodigal son returned home?
3. In what country did the Hebrews feed on cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic?
4. When Jacob's sons made a second trip to Egypt, what food did they bring with them as a gift for Joseph?
5. What miraculous food resembled coriander seed?
6. Who cursed a fig tree for not bearing fruit?
7. What ominous winged creature is described as unclean in the Law?

Answers:
1. Exodus (3:8)
2. The fatted calf (Luke 15:23)
3. Egypt (Numbers 11:5)
4. Almonds (Genesis 43:11)
5. Manna (Exodus 16:31)
6. Jesus (Matthew 21:14)
7. The bat (Leviticus 11:13-19)

THE DIVINE LITURGY

We now start the study of the second part of the Divine Liturgy. This part is audible and it is often thought to be the beginning of the Liturgy.

This second part is called the Liturgy of the Learners or Catechumens. It is instructional. In the early church, not only the baptized faithful were allowed to be present at this part of the liturgy, but those who were learning, who were studying to prepare themselves for baptism. Penitents, those who broke the law of the church, were also allowed to be present at this part of the liturgy, which consists of prayers, hymns, and Bible lessons, many of which are taken from the Old Testament, note Psalms 102, 145, the Prokimenons and the Allelulia verses.

Before this part of the Divine Liturgy starts, either the priest or deacon censes the altar table, the ikons, the clergy and the congregation. There is a specific order in which this is done. While he is censing he recites semiaudibly the 50th Psalm asking to be "cleansed from all iniquity" and "to be made whiter than snow" and "to create a pure spirit" within him, in the hopes that his human weaknesses and faults are replaced by the sweet scent of the burning incense.

The priest then stands before the Holy Altar, lifts up his hands and recites three prayers. One of them is to the Holy Spirit which is recited by many believers in their daily prayers. He calls upon the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth who art everywhere present and fillest all things. Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life: Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One." Then the prayers: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men," and "O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise."

The second prayer: "Glory to God in the highest" is also familiar as we hear it repeated many times during the Christmas season. It was the one sung by the angels in Bethlehem. It gives the purpose for the Divine Liturgy: to give glory to God. Our Sunday Services are for worship of God and are not feel-good services.

The third prayer is taken from the 50th Psalm. The priest has already appealed to the Holy Spirit, now he asks God to "open my lips" so that he may praise God.

These prayers said the priest kisses the altar, the Gospel and then the hand blessing cross which is on the altar. He then picks up the gospel and makes the sign of the cross over the altar table.

While all this is going on, there is silence in the church except for the sound of the swinging censer and the whisper of the prayers of the priest.

QUESTIONS:
1. Who was allowed to attend the Liturgy of the Catechumens?
2. What happens just prior to this part of the Liturgy?
3. What is the first prayer which the priest says?
4. What posture does he have?
5. What is the second prayer and where have we heard it before?
6. What is the third prayer and where have we heard it before?
7. Does the choir sing while this is going on?

GOD ON LEAVE

We are sorry to inform you that God will not be available during the summer, beginning with July 1. We have it from reliable sources that He feels He deserves some time off, so He has cancelled His normal duties for the summer.

However, He has agreed to send the sun and rain occasionally, when He happens to be in town. But so far as answering prayers for the needs of your family, please don't count on Him.

God has let it be known to the church leadership that they should not plan any outreach efforts or mission trips during the summer. Or at least if they do, they will have to do it without Him because He plans to be gone a lot to relatives and the lake. God has expressed the opinion that we should find somebody else to take His place.

Yes, we reminded Him of His promise, "Surely I will be with you always." But He said He didn't realize when He said it that it meant going for two or three years without a break. He expressed His sincere regrets, and hopes that it will not cause anyone any inconvenience.

God may be contacted anytime after September 1, at which time He hopes to "get back into the routine." Please defer all requests until then.

* * * * * *

A cinder in the eye may be smaller than a pinhead, yet it can blind us to the entire universe.

MEMORIES

Our grammar school music teacher had many talents and had the ability to bring out the best. She taught music and was very proficient in producing stage plays. In this instance, she was producing a Mother's Day play and parents were in the audience. My ability as a singer and actor was not outstanding according to my own standards; however, she did pick on me. You see, I was able to read music, carry a tune, and was not fearful of acting. In this play, I was assigned the solo to end the show. The opening scene was a fishing background with me holding a fishing rod and sitting on a ramp. The school band was composed of a piano, six fiddlers, a flute, and a drummer. They opened the scene with the overture of a Polish lullaby. I walked slowly to the stage front. My costume was a white shirt, knee pants, and bare feet. I met my cue and the words and music and responded: "My mother in dreams I see her with face so sweet an calm" – words that I have never ever forgotten, and I am reaching ninety-three years of age. All went well until the end of my contribution. The curtain crew missed the cue to close the curtain. I turned and proceeded to leave the stage, when for some reason, I decided to return to the stage center. I did so, raised my hands to Heaven and said, "Thanks, Mom!" This action was not in the script. This time the curtain crew acted. The curtain was drawn, and the spotlight was dimmed. As I walked into the wing of the stage, I was met by my teacher and production producer. I saw she had tears in her eyes when she took me in her arms and said, "You were wonderful!" She made me cry. You see, I lost my mom just ten months earlier.

Ted Hamilla

Please submit your stories and anecdotes for "Memories" to:
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Lorain, OH 44055 or
E-mail: mpysarchyk@hotmail.com

SOBORNOST
ELECTION OF BISHOPS

One City, One Bishop (continued)

The provincial councils began to use the legal procedures of the Roman courts, for example, the acceptance of the principle of majority vote (canon 6). Zizioulas tells us:

> Thus evolution, which started even before Constantine, was perhaps inevitable and practically useful, but it created an internal tension between the basic ecclesiological ideal of a "consensus," based upon the charisma veritatis of each bishop and the legal and practical requirements of a formal assembly, patterned after the rules of secular society and invested with legal power. It should be noted, however, that the influence of secular legalism upon conciliar procedures concerned mostly the issues of church order and discipline. The solution of credal matters continued generally to be sought as a charismatic consensus, with each bishop giving his own testimonium. Total unity in faith and in eucharistic communion were required as a condition for an authoritative statement to be made by the council, and for the council itself to be considered an authentic council of the church. In the words of Meyendorff: 'The koinonia of the eucharistic gathering constituted the ground on which conciliarity found its raison d'etre.;

Fr. Michael Dahulich, PhD
Dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary

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YOU ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN

You ascended into heaven
to sit at the Father's right Hand, O Jesus.
Forty days after Your rising
You returned to join the Father, O Jesus.
High atop the Mount of Olives
You gave Your parting instructions, O Jesus.
The disciples awed by the sight
saw two angels dressed in white, O Jesus.
Mary saw with the eleven
Your Ascension into heaven, O Jesus.
A bright cloud carried You away
on this holy, sacred day. O Jesus.
O! prepare a place for us
in the mansions of the just, O Jesus.
You will not leave us orphaned
but the Paraclete will comfort, O Jesus.
Though ascended You still remain
on the altar we proclaim, O Jesus.
You will return just as You said
to judge the living and the dead, O Jesus.
O Jesus, Mighty Savior
Son of God, our Redeemer:
Send the Spirit as You promised
to renew and save us.

Anonymous

NOT AN APPLE

Although legend has it that the forbidden fruit of the tree of knowledge mentioned in Genesis that Eve was tempted by the serpent to taste was an apple, nowhere does the Bible identify it as one. In fact most scholars agree that the one fruit it could not have been was the apple. Apples were not likely to have grown in Bible lands in Old Testament times. The legend arose in the Middle Ages when artists painted pictures of Eve tasting the apple. Another source of confusion was the medieval custom of calling many different kinds of fruit "apples." Lemons were known as "Persian apples," dates as "finger apples," and pomegranates as "apples of Carthage."

ETHNIC CHUCKLE

Dorohaya Tyotys Mareea,

Yak tam kolo vas? Toot yah taka busy doing nech zhe yah uzhe many months neh pesala vam. Yah dumam zhe bullo lepsheh koee me malee schedules. Me pralee shatya ponodelyok, ironovalee nah tuesday, peklee hleb nah wednesday ee tak dalyeh. Teper me myem so many time saving machinery - automatic clothes washer ee dryer, microwave ee druhee zhe me me neh stayuyyem doma so much. Me teper eedem nah shopping mall. A tam me walking around ee kupeem ee kupem. Me shitko mayem. Barz mnoho shatya u nashem closetah. So much zhe mozem dress up chello sello. E mamem dosta canned, frozen ee takee calluyut convenience food zhe mozhem yeastee chelee rek. Noh me anyway edem nah mall, day after day. Yah dumam zhe me myem "mall mania.

Vchera yah mala takee bad case mall mania. Yah tak hotcheela kupetee shoska. Anything. Yah dumam zhe buduy bratee bus tam ee buduy enjoy myself. No me staree catched me. Ohn asked me: "Where you going?" Yah answered: "I think I'll go to the mall. I need some exercise. I think I'll walk around a bit." I don't plan on doing any buying." Ohn asked: "You want me to drive you?" Yah kazhu: "No, dear, you watch the football rerun on TV. I'll manage."

Yah got dressed - a tam stoyet me husband at the door. Kolee me got to the mall yah neh mohla get rid of him. Yah telling him tak sweetly - go for a fast walk or sit and talk with the other men waiting for their wives or we need lightbulbs, no. 40 go buy some a. We'll meet later. Nech neh working, ohn sticuyeh doh menah zhe yah dumam zhe yah scrazuyou. Finally yah dumam - what the heck - I'll buy something. A ohn kazhe: "You don't need that." "That's too expensive."

Yah gave up, no fun shopping with him. Toh yah kazuy: "I'm finished. Let's go to the supermarket." Peeshlee. A tam not much better. Ohn hounding me footsteps. Yah couldn't get rid of him. Yah znam zhe ohn taking things out of me kart kolee yah turned me back. Not much fun shopping today.

Kolee me riding domuy yah said: "Let's stop for a bite to eat." A ohn asked: "Why?" A yah answered: "Boh we don't have anything to eat at home." Yah dumala zhe ohn budey matee heart attack, ohn tak kreecheh: "Nothing to eat! What did we just spend $98.76 for? Who you planning to give that food to the food bank?"

Well, mee peeshlee domu. Tam malee sandwich ee bowl polevkoo. A then we tried to naytee room in cupboard ee freezer for groceree me kupelee.

Tyotya Marees, teper kolee yah a little cooled off yah mozhyu vam soshka povestee. Yah dumam zhe yah mam yakez buying disease.

Budteh zdrovee,
Mall Hanya.

SPIRES OR DOMES

Orthodox Churches differ from Western Christian Churches in that they are crowned with domes rather than with spires.

Spires symbolize the reaching up to heaven. It is the more human-oriented approach – humans reaching for God.

The domes on Orthodox Churches have different symbolic meanings, depending upon the number of domes or cupolas. A large central dome traditionally has an icon of Christ in the interior of the church. He looks down upon the people.

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Undique (from everywhere)

Do you fast from midnight on before receiving Holy Communion?

Have you noticed how many people do not make the sign of the Cross on entering the Church? Few people do even when walking in front of the Holy Doors.

Few pastors will tackle the dress code. Summer is here, and T-shirts, shorts, tank tops, and even flip-flops make their annual appearance. Many say that we should be grateful that people come to church at all, and restrictions on proper attire would turn them off. Perhaps that is true; but if that is the case, what does that say about their faith in the first place?

In our performance-driven world, Christians often assume that God's main calling on their lives is to work for Him. But working for Christ should be secondary to our devotion to Him. Many Christians are strong on service but weak on worship!

Planning ahead, looking toward the future, though necessary, can sometimes distract us from appreciating the daily landscape of life, the landscape through which we are traveling this very moment. God calls us to enjoy the ride. Plan for tomorrow, but don't forget to enjoy today.

Prayer in the home is the place where a child first learns to pray. It is a time for unhurried, relaxed communication between parent and child and God.

One Orthodox explained: "We don't worship the icons or the saints or the Bible. We worship God in a very physical, demonstrative, celebratory way!

We are God's hands when we serve others.

What is the Biblical basis for the statement in the Nicene Creed: "I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins"?

After St. Peter preached his Pentecost sermon, the people cried out, "What should we do?" And St. Peter said to them: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38)

Editor's Notes

Twelve years of my life were spent in Texas. One of those times we lived next to a family who had just sold their cattle ranch, which had been in their family for several generations, and moved into town because they were no longer able to manage it. We became good friends and I learned so much about Texas and its culture from them. One time when we were talking over the back fence, I sneezed. Instead of saying: "God, bless you" my neighbor said: "Scat." When I commented on this, she said that it was an old custom, dating back to ancient times, when folks believed that sneezing expelled the devil. They said: "Scat!" to shoo him away.

This was brought to mind when I received a call from my friend in Connecticut. In the course of our conversation, we mentioned attending Divine Liturgy the following day. We gave a list of reasons why we didn't think that we would make it. Then we started to laugh, realizing that we were giving excuses not reasons. We decided that the devil "satana" was at work. We both were in church the following day.

Satan's schemes always begin with a lie, a false lead, and, in our case, a subtle twist to the truth, which, if acted on, would tear us away from God. His proposals rarely seem evil, because our minds are repelled by obvious evil. More often they come disguised as good and logical. He adds a trace of grace and beauty to every lure, lest we recognize its deadly nature. It's easy to be taken in.

We are told in James 4:7 to: "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." We must counter Satan's lies with what we know is right when they first enter our minds. We must meet them, recognize them for what they are, and banish them as we would a pushy salesman before they get a foot in our door. Perhaps, not getting to church seems like a little thing, but these can pile up and slowly deaden our consciences. Then Satan has won his battle! Before that happens, say "Scat!" and shoo him away.

I was blessed to be able to attend the 100th year pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's Monastery. It was easy to pray with the aid of the 120 voice choir, which sang the responses. God gave us a beautiful day, which encouraged us to look for friends from all over the U.S. who came to get refreshed. It was sad to see many of them using canes, walkers or in wheelchairs. Now that the various activities are spread over such a wide area, how thoughtful it would be to have a shuttle service for those who have difficulty walking, as is provided at the pilgrimage in September at Mount Macrina. This year, the highlights of the three-day program were the blessing of the bells and the opening of the Centennial Museum and Book Store. The displays in the Museum were done by Fr. John Perich, who was given a yeoman's job. The displays document the life of the monastery and the Orthodox Church for the last 100 years and were beautifully done.

Over the weeks since the May 30 pilgrimage, I have received many calls from people telling me that they missed me at the pilgrimage. They said that they had checked the Stroyen Corner near the arch and found it empty. God willing, I hope to occupy the Stroyen Corner next year so that I can visit with more friends and relatives. While talking about this, I realized that there is one custom which has been lost. In years past, many family or groups of people always went to the same spot following the Divine Liturgy to eat and socialize. They talked and ate and laughed and cried and then they would sing the old songs. Music could be heard coming from many areas of the vast monastery grounds.

Perhaps it's only natural that some customs fade away and some start. I was pleased to be given a medovnik by young David Mastroberte. He made many of these honey cakes, which were traditionally taken by pilgrims in the Carpathian area to sustain themselves on their journey to holy places. Since, according to the history of the monastery in "Alive in Christ," people from the Carpathian area were instrumental in founding the monastery 100 years ago, perhaps it would be appropriate to expand the tradition of medovniks.

Enjoy the summer but don't forget God and say "Scat!" to Satan if he makes an appearance in your house.

God be with you.

Matushka Nina Stroyen



How wonderful to receive a birthday card and more so when it has two recipes for the Kitchen Corner! Thank you, Pani Martha Zelinak, one of the best cooks I know and certainly one who shares not only her recipes but many good dishes from her kitchen. The Copper Pennies recipe is good for a potluck or a picnic, as it can be made ahead of time and its piquant taste adds much to a menu. The Honey Mustard Chicken is easy and quick, just what many of you are looking for.

COPPER PENNIES

5 cups sliced cooked carrots
1 medium onion, sliced
1 small green pepper, diced
1 can tomato soup
1 teaspoon prepared mustard
1/2 cup salad oil
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup vinegar
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper

Cook carrots. Drain and cool. Add onions and peppers and set aside. Mix remaining ingredients. Boil and cool. Pour over carrot mixture. Marinade in fridge overnight. Serve cold.

HONEY MUSTARD CHICKEN

chicken breasts
1/4 cup honey
1/4 cup golden mustard
salt and pepper
4 tablespoons melted butter

Lay chicken breasts in a greased baking pan. Mix rest of ingredients. Pour over chicken. Place in 350° oven. Bake for about one hour, turning every 15 minutes.

IN AND OUT

Copied from a church bulletin. On some Sundays, it almost seems like we have a revolving door in back of the church - and it is used by both children and adults. Use the restroom before coming to church. You shouldn't need to get a drink of water during the service (especially if you are taking communion). Don't come to church to go to the fellowship hall - come to pray.

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WINTER'S GRACE

We were visiting an old friend who was suffering from the first stages of dementia. He lamented the fact that he often forgot about God. His good friend who was there said: "Don't worry, He will never forget you."

Growing old is one of the hardest tasks we have to face in this life. As the saying goes: "Growing old is not for sissies."

Growing old is mainly about losses. We devote much of our early lives to acquiring things, but they are merely things we lose as we age. We lose our strength, our looks, our friends, our job. We may lose our wealth, our home, our health, our spouse, our independence, and what we really worry about – one of the greatest losses of all – our sense of dignity and self-worth.

But there is one thing that you and I will never lose – the love of God. As He promised Isaiah 46:6: "Even to your old age, I am He and even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and I will deliver you."

And in the Psalm we are told: "Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God… They shall still bring forth fruit in old age." (Psalm 92:13)

LIGHTER MOMENT

Fourth of July was coming up, and the nursery school teacher was telling the children about patriotism. "We live in a great country," she said. "One of the things that we should be happy about is that in this country we are all free."

One little boy stood up, placed his hands on his hips, and said: "I'm not free…I'm four."

Home Bible Reading Schedule

JULY 2005

1. Romans 5:17-6:2
2. Romans 3:19-26
3. **Romans 2:10-16**
4. Romans 7:1-13
5. Romans 7:14-*; 3
6. Romans 8:2-13
7. Romans 8:22-27
8. Romans 9:6-19
9. Romans 3:28-4:3
10. **Romans 5:1-10**
11. Romans 9:18-33
12. Romans 10:11-11:2
13. Romans 11:2-12
14. Romans 11:13-24
15. Romans 11:25-36
16. Romans 6:11-17
17. **Romans 6:18-23**
18. Romans 12:4, 5, 15-21
19. Romans 14:9-18
20. Romans 15:7-16
21. Romans 15:17-29
22. Romans 16:1-16
23. Romans 8:14-21
24. Romans 10:1-10
25. Romans 16:17-24
26. 1 Cor. 1:1-9
27. 1 Cor. 2:9-3:8
28. 1 Cor. 3:18-23
29. 1 Cor. 4:5-8
30. Romans 9:1-5
31. Romans 12:6-14

BIBLE STUDY

Some people suffer from a strange hearing disorder – they can hear sounds but they can't understand words. They have no trouble hearing a bird sing or a watch tick, but words are as unintelligible, as if they were a foreign language. The source of the problem is not in the ears. It stems from an injury to the brain.

There is also a spiritual deafness that affects some people. They are mentioned in 1 Corinthians 2:14: "The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God…" What is meant by the natural man? It is one who is without the aid of the Spirit of God or as some Bible translations say an "unspiritual" man. Those who are without faith in Christ can read the Bible and hear the teachings of God's Word, but its spiritual message is lost to them. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

That explains why some people can appreciate the Bible as literature, as reliable history, and as a source of high moral standards, but they fail to understand its spiritual message. They don't grasp the significance of what it says about Christ – His death on the Cross, His resurrection and His promises to us. These truths make no sense to them.

As you read the daily readings, do you "hear" what it says? If not, ask the Lord to have mercy on you and to open your understanding. As the silent prayers before the gospel reading states: "Illumine our hearts, O Master who lovest mankind, with the pure light of thy divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Thy teachings."

This is the cure for spiritual deafness.

LIGHTER MOMENT

An employer complained in a staff meeting that he wasn't getting any respect. Later that morning, he went to a local sign shop and bought a small sign that read: "I'm the boss." He then fixed it to his office door. When he returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that read: "Your wife called. She wants the sign."